Justice Dept. Assails Bill on Kennedy Files

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WASHINGTON, April 28 (AP) — Legislation that would create a procedure for the Government's release of documents on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy hit a snag today when the Justice Department, reversing Bush Administration policy, came out "strongly" against it.

In a letter to a House committee chairman, Assistant Attorney General W. Lee Rawls said the proposed House-Senate resolution "would severely encroach upon the President's constitutional authority to protect confidential information." The letter said that if Congress passed the resolution in its current form, the Justice Department "would give serious consideration to recommending Presidential disapproval."

At issue is public disclosure, after screening, of hundreds of sealed boxes of Congressional and executive-branch documents dealing with various Government investigations into the assassination of Kennedy, who was shot to death in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

Under the proposed resolution, the Federal appeals court in Washington would appoint a five-member citizens' board to review each document and, after giving consideration to concerns like individual privacy, decide whether to release [illegible]

Mr. Rawls's letter, [illegible] sentative John Conyers, the Michigan Democrat who heads the House Government Operations Committee, said the constitutional authority to appoint such a board, and to oversee its work, rested with the President, not with the courts.

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